

Wudtone

Custom Guitars & Finishes

Tommy Platt , Wudtone PRS LR upgrade

I have always been a fan of trem loaded guitars in terms of functionality. The one let-down I always found was in the tone. I have spent years and not a trivial sum of money in trying to find the ideal guitar both tonally and playability wise.

I have found that the more of the bridge that is in contact with the body of the guitar, the more increase in tone and dynamic response of the instrument. This is usually only achievable by lowering the bridge (or completely blocking it) on an S-type to the point where it doesn't function as a tremolo unit anymore. My current no. 1 is a PRS Experience Custom 24 with a solid rosewood neck which featured, up until very recently, the standard PRS tremolo bridge. The addition of the Wudtone PRS LR tremolo allows extreme tremolo action with stable tuning and improves the tone.



Tone differences

I found that acoustically the guitar seemed bigger and fuller when playing open or bar chords and kept the clarity when playing complex voicing's.

The dynamic response was improved, when I kept the attack light, it was noticeable lighter but then digging in with the pick yielded some surprising and favourable results. When playing single note lines, the tone seemed thicker and fuller, whether I was using humbuckers or the single coil in the bridge, neck or combined. I was able to achieve a tone very similar to Eric Johnson's in songs like Manhattan but still retaining the sparkly highs.

Add some distortion and my guitar positively came alive with improved sustain and thick full tone that I had previously only managed to achieve with hard tail PRS's such as my P22 and McCarty. The finish on the bridge is great, build quality impeccable and I had no concerns about fitting it to my pride and joy.

Installation

As it is a direct replacement for the PRS bridge, there were literally no issues at all. I simply removed the PRS bridge and installed the Wudtone bridge using the six screws supplied

which fitted perfectly, a call to Andy at Wudtone to confirm how to best set it up (I do all my own setups and have built guitars in the past so I'm not averse to some tinkering) and it was on. A slight adjustment to the intonation on the high e string saddle and it was ready to rock straight out of the box, set your action at the bridge by the saddle height adjustment screws to taste.

The fact that there are people you can call who can talk you through the process is a great selling point as there are many parts companies that I have contacted after buying and receiving parts and its almost impossible to get through to someone who can actually advise and sound confident about the advice they are providing. Add to that the "return if not completely satisfied" policy and its win win for the consumer.

more info on the Wudtone PRS LR upgrade at

<http://www.wudtone.com/2012/03/21/wudtone-prs-lr-tremolo-upgrade/>

Tommy Platt Nov 2014

<http://www.wudtone.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Tommy-Platt-review.pdf>